

## GENERAL PROGRAMME

### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE: THE GLOBAL CHALLENGE OF HUMAN RIGHTS INTEGRATION: TOWARDS A USERS' PERSPECTIVE

9-11 December 2015

Het Pand, Onderbergen 1, Ghent

#### TUESDAY 8 DECEMBER

#### VENUE

16.30 Departure from Novotel  
17.00 – 19.00 **Children's rights walk**

Novotel, Goudenleeuwplein 5

#### WEDNESDAY 9 DECEMBER

9.00 – 10.00 **Registration and welcome coffee**

Kapittelzaal

10.00 – 10.30 **Welcome and introduction to the conference**

Refter

*Eva Brems, Ghent University, and Ellen Desmet, Ghent University/University of Antwerp*

10.30 – 12.00 **Plenary panel: Theorizing fragmentation and integration in human rights law** (Track 1)

Refter

Chair: Barbara Oomen, University College Roosevelt

Fragmented sovereignties and (global) normative pluralism  
*Shalini Randeria, The Graduate Institute, Geneva*

Fragmentation and integration for better and worse: Assessing the doctrines of a margin of appreciation and of the emerging European consensus  
*Andreas Føllesdal, University of Oslo*



12.00 – 13.30	<b>Lunch</b>	Kapittelzaal
	Parallel: <b>Publishers' stall</b> <b>Poster session Human Rights Integration network</b>	Kapittelzaal Kapittelzaal
13.30 – 15.00	<b>Parallel panel sessions (no. 1)</b>	
	<i>Track 1:</i> Theorizing human rights in today's world -----	Refter
	<i>Track 2:</i> Tracing the convergence and divergence of international human rights in the ----- European Union	Rector Vermeylen
	<i>Track 3:</i> The judge, the Constitution and the Treaty -----	Oude Infirmerie
	<i>Track 5:</i> Human rights may be useful -----	Rector Blancquaert
15.00 – 15.30	Coffee break	Kapittelzaal
15.30 – 17.00	<b>Parallel panel sessions (no. 2)</b>	
	<i>Track 2:</i> Cultural diversity as a challenge to the convergence between international human ----- rights bodies	Rector Vermeylen
	<i>Track 3:</i> Dialogues around human rights: some national experiences -----	Oude Infirmerie
	<i>Track 4:</i> Convergence and divergence between IHRL and international criminal law -----	Refter
	<i>Track 5:</i> Do the regional human rights mechanisms matter? -----	Rector Blancquaert
18.30	<b>Welcome reception</b> Music: Petar Elmazov and Kolyo Mihalev	Gravensteen, Sint-Veerleplein 11



**THURSDAY 10 DECEMBER – HUMAN RIGHTS DAY**

**VENUE**

9.00 – 10.30	<p><b>Plenary panel: Convergence and divergence between international human rights law (IHRL) and other branches of international law</b> (Track 4)</p> <p>Chairs: Paul De Hert and Stefaan Smis, Vrije Universiteit Brussel</p> <p>An inquiry into the possible guiding, gap-filling, expanding or narrowing effects of international criminal law on international human rights law and international humanitarian law <i>Patricia Pinto Soares, European University Institute</i></p> <p>The relation between human rights and international criminal law: between cross-fertilization and non-respect <i>Damien Scalia, University of Geneva and Université catholique de Louvain</i></p>	Refter
10.30 – 11.00	<p><b>Scholars at Risk</b></p> <p>Chair: Eva Brems, Ghent University</p> <p>Introduction to the Scholars at Risk (SAR) Network and UAF <i>Ella De Lange, SAR and UAF</i></p> <p>Signing of MoU between SAR and Ghent University <i>Guido Van Huylbroeck, Academic Director Internationalisation, and Ella De Lange</i></p> <p>Testimony of SAR at Ghent University <i>Kassem Alsayed Mahmoud (Syria)</i></p>	Refter
11.00 – 11.30	Coffee break	Kapittelzaal



11.30 – 13.00	<p><b>Parallel panel sessions (no. 3)</b></p> <p><i>Track 1: Legal pluralism and theorizing human rights</i> ----- Rector Vermeylen</p> <p><i>Track 3: The permeability of the constitutional protection of human rights</i> ----- Rafter</p> <p><i>Track 4: Convergence and divergence between IHRL and transnational criminal law and international responsibility law</i> ----- Rector Blancquaert</p> <p><i>Track 5: Africa and China</i> ----- Oude Infirmierie</p>	
13.00 – 14.30	<p><b>Lunch</b></p> <p>13.10: <b>Human rights documentary “9999”</b> of Ellen Vermeulen</p> <p>Chair: Yves Haeck, Ghent University</p> <p><i>Q&amp;A with documentary maker Ellen Vermeulen</i></p>	<p>Kapittelzaal</p> <p>Rafter</p>
14.30 – 16.00	<p><b>Plenary panel: Convergence and divergence between national and international human rights law</b> (Track 3)</p> <p>Chair: Sébastien Van Drooghenbroeck, Saint-Louis University, Brussels</p> <p>The interplay between domestic and international human rights: mutual reinforcement, complementarity, or levelling down? <i>Maya Hertig-Randall, University of Geneva</i></p> <p>Constitutional versus international human rights protection: added value or redundancy? <i>Jan Velaers, University of Antwerp</i></p>	<p>Rafter</p>
16.00 – 16.30	<p>Coffee break</p>	<p>Kapittelzaal</p>



16.30 – 18.00	<b>Parallel panel sessions (no. 4)</b>	
	<i>Track 1: The usefulness of human rights in addressing today's societal problems -----</i>	Rector Vermeulen
	<i>Track 2: Convergence in international human rights adjudication: techniques and challenges -----</i>	Refter
	<i>Track 4: Convergence and divergence between IHRL and international humanitarian law and international refugee law -----</i>	Rector Blancquaert Oude Infirmierie
	<i>Track 5: Meanwhile at the UN -----</i>	
19.30	<b>Conference dinner at Belfort Restaurant</b>	Emile Braunplein

**FRIDAY 11 DECEMBER**

9.00 – 10.30	<b>Plenary panel: Convergence and divergence within international human rights law (Track 2)</b>	Refter
	Chairs: Emmanuelle Bribosia and Isabelle Rorive, Université libre de Bruxelles	
	The emerging common law of human rights <i>Olivier De Schutter, Université catholique de Louvain</i>	
	The European Union in the international system of human rights protection: Solo singer or voice in the choir? <i>Bruno De Witte, Maastricht University</i>	
10.30 – 11.00	Coffee break	Kapittelzaal
11.00 – 12.30	<b>Parallel panel sessions (no. 5)</b>	
	<i>Track 2: Convergence through adaption: Discussing the merit of new institutions and perspectives to human rights -----</i>	Refter



<i>Track 3: At the crossroad of national and international protection: selected topics -----</i>	Rector Blancquaert
<i>Track 4: Convergence and divergence between IHRL and international economic law and international environmental law -----</i>	Oude Infirmerie
<i>Track 5: Human rights may be useless -----</i>	Rector Vermeulen

12.30 – 14.00

**Lunch**

Kapittelzaal

12.40: **Human rights documentary “Séparés (Gescheiden)”** of Sophie de Brabandere

Refter

Chair: Eva Brems, Ghent University

*Introduction by Dirk Vanheule, President of the Belgian Refugee Council;*

*Q&A with Astrid Declercq, jurist at the Belgian Refugee Council*

14.00 – 15.30

**Plenary panel: Human rights are useless/useful (Track 5)**

Refter

Chair: Koen De Feyter, University of Antwerp

A new agenda for human rights after the rise of the rest

*Balakrishnan Rajagopal, Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

**Closing remarks**

*Eva Brems, Ghent University*

**SATURDAY 12 DECEMBER**

9.30

Departure from Novotel

Novotel, Goudenleeuwplein 5

10.00 – 12.00

**Children’s rights walk**